

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The significance of using the solvent extraction technique in the present invention can be illustrated by comparing the residual solvent concentration in the commercially available excipient, sodium starch glycolate (a well known binder/disintegrant) with Yung Zip's DZF®, which uses the present residue extraction method (Table 3). Yung Zip's DZF® is still at the research and development stage and is not currently commercially available.

Table 3. Levels of Residual Solvents in Market Products of Sodium Starch Glycolate --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Subj Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A low-residual-solvent excipient which has residual solvent of less than 3000 ppm;
wherein said excipient possesses water absorbing property which is characterized by the presence of a methoxy alkylcarboxyl ($-\text{CH}_2\text{-O-RCOO}^+\text{A}^+$) group in said excipient;
wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms; and
wherein A^+ is Na^+ or K^+ .

Subj Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The low-residual-solvent excipient according to claim 2, wherein said polysaccharide based material is one selected from the group consisting of starch based material, cellulose based material, chitin based material, sugar, Arabic gum, and Guar gum.

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Concl

[Please amend claim 4 as follows:]

4. (Once Amended) The low-residual-solvent excipient according to claim 3,

wherein said starch based material is one selected from the group consisting of starch, amylose, amylopectin, gelatin, and sodium starch glycolate.

Subt B

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) The low-residual-solvent excipient according to claim 2, wherein said methoxy alkylcarboxyl ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{RCOO}^-\text{A}^+$) group of said excipient is obtained by reacting a carbinol group ($-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$) of said excipient with a water absorbing radical.

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[Please amend claim 9 as follows:]

9. (Amended) The low-residual-solvent excipient according to claim 8, wherein said water absorbing radical is a $-\text{R}-\text{COO}^-\text{A}^+$ radical, wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms; wherein A^+ is Na^+ or K^+ .

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Please cancel claim 11.

Please amend the first claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, further comprising a step of:

attaching a water-absorbing radical to said low-residual-solvent excipient before said low-residual-solvent excipient mixes with said solvent/water solution;

wherein said water absorbing radical is a $(-\text{RCOO}^-\text{A}^+)$ radical, where A^+ is Na^+ or K^+ ;

and

(A) *(B)*
~~wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms.~~

Please cancel the second claim 22.

(Subj) *(A)* *(B)*
Please amend claim ²⁷ ~~26~~ as follows:

(Subj) *(A)* *(B)*
Claim ²⁷ ~~26~~. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said polysaccharide based material is one selected from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, amylose, amylopectin, gelatin, sodium starch glycolate, cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, croscarmellose, hydroxypropyl-methyl-cellulose, and chitosan.

(Subj) *(A)* *(B)*
Please add new claims 27-28 as follows:

(Subj) *(A)* *(B)*
New Claim ²⁸ ~~27~~. A low-residual-solvent excipient which has residual solvent of less than 3000 rpm and possesses water absorbing property; wherein said low-residual-solvent excipient is a gelatinized starch.

New Claim ²⁹ ~~28~~. The low-residual-solvent excipient which has residual solvent according to claim 27, wherein said gelatinized starch is starch 1500 from corn starch.

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the